

# State of New Mexico

*Office of the Governor*

Bill Richardson  
*Governor*

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 2003-040**

## **CREATING THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON EQUITY IN THE JUDICIARY**

**WHEREAS**, Article III, Section 1, of the Constitution of New Mexico provided for equal branches of State government when it established that "the powers of the government of this state are divided into three distinct departments, the legislative, executive and judicial"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Judicial Branch of government in New Mexico is comprised of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, District Courts, Probate Courts, Metropolitan Courts and Magistrate Courts and other courts inferior to the District Courts as have been established by law; and

**WHEREAS**, during the 2003 regular legislative session, it became clear that the capital and fiscal condition of the New Mexico Judiciary has not been adequately supported or understood in past years by the Executive Branch of government; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of inadequate support by previous Executive administrations, the Judiciary is now faced with a substandard compensation structure for judges and administrators, with substandard facilities in several judicial districts, and a lack of sufficient technological infrastructure to coordinate and manage a statewide system of courts; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Mexico is now faced with a Judiciary that ranks toward the bottom of all states and below some U.S. territories when it comes to infrastructure funding and judicial compensation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the Governor has pledged to further develop its understanding of the fiscal issues of the Judiciary and to support the Judiciary's efforts to bring equity to New Mexico's judicial system;

**NOW THEREFORE** I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of New Mexico, do hereby establish the Governor's Task Force on Equity in the Judiciary (hereinafter "the Task Force").

The duties of the Task Force shall be to study and develop an overall understanding of the fiscal, technological and caseload issues facing New Mexico's Judiciary and regularly make written reports and recommendations to the Governor. The Task Force shall advise the Governor on opportunities for supporting the Judiciary in the capital outlay and budgetary process. The Task Force shall also study necessary statutory reform to further the objectives of this Executive Order. The Task Force shall be required to meet at least quarterly and provide a written report to the Governor after each meeting. The purpose of each report shall be to further educate the Governor and his staff of the needs of the Judiciary. At the discretion of the Governor, each report may be made available for review by the legislature.

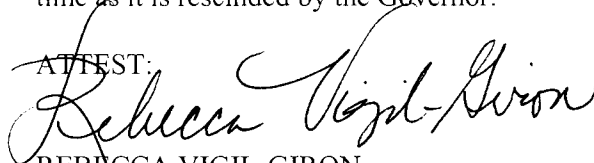
The Task Force shall be comprised of the following members or their respective designees:

1. The Governor's Chief Counsel;
2. The Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Projects;
3. The Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs;
4. The Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration;
5. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or designee;
6. An Associate Justice of the Supreme Court;
7. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals or designee;
8. The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts;
9. A representative Judge from the District Judge's Association;
10. A representative Judge from the Magistrate Judge's Association;
11. A representative Judge from the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court;
12. A representative Administrator from the District Court Administrator's Association;
13. A representative Administrator from the Magistrate Court Clerk's Association; and
14. Additional judges, attorneys or members of the public as determined by the Governor.

The Governor's Chief Counsel and Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Projects shall serve as Co-Chairs of the Task Force.

**THIS ORDER** supersedes any other previous orders, proclamations, or directives in conflict. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as it is rescinded by the Governor.

ATTEST:

  
REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON  
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
THIS 2nd DAY OF OCTOBER, 2003

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT  
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO



BILL RICHARDSON  
GOVERNOR

